

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-4, 8, 9 and 12 are pending in this application. Claims 1-3 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sacripante et al. (US Patent No. 6,025,412). Claims 1-3, 8, and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurabayashi (U.S. Patent No. 6,790,878).

The Examiner has not indicated the basis for rejection of claim 4. The Applicants left numerous voicemails for the Examiner, none of which were returned.

Claim 1 recites that “the water insoluble colored polymer particles contain a dye covered with a polymer.” Accordingly, one of the features of the invention is that the **water insoluble colored polymer particles include a core/shell structure**. At page 22, lines 18-22 of the specification, the preference of the core/shell structure is described as follows: “In view of the effects of the invention, a core-shell structure is preferred in which the surface of resins in which minute colored particles comprise colorant is further covered by resins.” Moreover, the core/shell structured polymer-coated dye dispersion is exemplified on page 69, lines 14 to 23. The effects of the present invention obtained by the colored core/shell polymer particles are explained at page 15, lines 6-18: “the dispersion stability of the ink as well as the ejection stability at heads is enhanced.”

The Examiner has taken the position that Sacripante discloses an ink composition comprising particles of an emulsifiable dye-polymer resin dispersed in a liquid vehicle. However, there is no disclosure of a colored polymer particle having a core/shell structure in Sacripante. **Sacripante fails to teach a core/shell structure**.

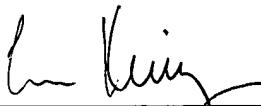
The Examiner has taken the position that the particles disclosed in Kurabayashi are resin particles encapsulating a coloring material. However, again, **Kurabayashi is silent to a core/shell structure**.

Both Sacripante and Kurabayashi fail to teach or suggest the use of colored polymer particles having a core/shell structure. Moreover, the references, individually or combined do not have a motivation to resolve the problems of the present invention so as to obtain the effects of the present invention -- the dispersion stability of the ink and ejection stability at ink-jet head by colored polymer particles having a core/shell structure.

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: 56232.98

In sum, removal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or concerns, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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